

Re-imagining Long-term Residential Care in the COVID-19 Crisis

APRIL 24, 2020

The COVID-19 crisis offers an opportunity to create a new, better normal at Canadian long-term residential care facilities.

The report's short-term recommendations include: making all staff permanent and limiting their work to one nursing home; raising staff wages and benefits, especially sick leave; rapidly providing testing for all those living, working or visiting in homes; ensuring access to protective equipment immediately; and severely limiting transfers from hospitals.

In the long term, evidence suggests policymakers should more effectively integrate long-term residential care into the the public health care system, through federal legislation similar to the Canada Health Act, in order to develop a universal public long-term care plan that is accessible and adequately funded; stop privatization and promote non-profit ownership; ensure protective equipment is stockpiled for the future; build surge capacity into labour force planning and the physical structure of facilities; and establish and enforce minimum staffing levels and regulations.

Further reading on promising practices in long-term care

Baines, D. & P. Armstrong (eds.). (2015/16). Promising practices in long-term care: Ideas worth sharing. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Armstrong, P. & S. Braedley (eds.). (2016). Physical environments for long-term care: Ideas worth sharing. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Armstrong, P. & T Daly. (2017). Exercising choice in long-term residential care. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

Armstrong, P. & R. Lowndes (2018). Negotiating tensions in long-term residential care: Ideas worth sharing. Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

OFFICES: National Office

ISSUE: Health, health care system, pharmacare | Public services and privatization | Seniors issues and pensions

ISBN: 978-1-77125-502-8



Re-imagining Long-term Residential Care in Canada

April 24, 2020 | National Office

TORONTO — The COVID-19 crisis offers an opportunity to create a new, better normal at Canadian long-term residential care facilities, according to a new background report released today by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA).

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